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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 4 December 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Logar ..... (Slovenia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.44)

Draft resolution on international trade and development (A/C.2/70/L.44)

1. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.44 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(g) Harmony with Nature (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.42)

Draft resolution on harmony with nature (A/C.2/70/L.42)

2. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.42 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.3/Rev.1)

Draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/70/L.3/Rev.1)

3. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.3/Rev.1 on behalf of Sweden and his own delegation, announced that the sponsors listed in the document had been joined by Albania, Angola, Austria, the Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Montenegro, Mozambique, Qatar, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

4. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Kenya, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Togo also wished to join the list of sponsors.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.10/Rev.1)

Draft resolution entitled "Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors" (A/C.2/70/L.10/Rev.1)

5. **Mr. Eyeberdiyev** (Turkmenistan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.10/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document, said that Cuba, Cyprus, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Ukraine also wished to join the sponsors. Noting that the development of transport had become a major factor in geopolitics and a driver of integration, he said that his Government, together with the International Road Transport Union, had recently hosted an international conference on transport and transit routes in the Caspian Sea and Central Asia region.

6. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ecuador, Mali, Nicaragua, Palau, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Uganda wished to join the sponsors.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.12/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on agricultural technology for sustainable development (A/C.2/70/L.12/Rev.1)

7. **Ms. Keren** (Israel) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.12/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document.

8. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Guinea-Bissau also wished to join the sponsors.

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.45)

Draft resolution on the venue of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2016 (A/C.2/70/L.45)

9. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.45, submitted by Mr. Chandra (Indonesia), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the recommendation of the Trade and Development

Board. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.45 was adopted.*

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.3/Rev.1)

Draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/70/L.3/Rev.1)

11. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.3/Rev.1, submitted by Fiji and Sweden on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

12. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Chad, the Niger, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania also wished to join the sponsors.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.3/Rev.1 was adopted.*

14. **Ms. Engelbrecht Schadtler** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that Venezuela was not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Those instruments, which could be considered to constitute customary international law, were not therefore binding on her country except insofar as its legislation explicitly recognized them. That Convention should not be the only legal framework that purported to govern activities related to oceans and seas, nor could it be considered a universal instrument. Although the draft resolution contained positive aspects with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it nevertheless included content that had caused her country to express reservations about the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as marine biodiversity issues. Accordingly, her country had expressed reservations about target 14.c of the Sustainable Development Goals. An update of the terms of the Convention should be considered, since the manner in which it covered certain new situations was premature and in some cases might be counterproductive. As the regime evolved, it should address the most important current issues regarding the oceans and seas in a balanced, equitable, participatory and inclusive manner.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.5/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (A/C.2/70/L.5/Rev.1)

15. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.5/Rev.1, submitted by Indonesia, Morocco and Samoa on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

16. **Mr. Larhmaid** (Morocco) said that Belize, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Iceland, India, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Nepal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates wished to join the sponsors.

17. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Botswana, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, Senegal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uganda also wished to join the sponsors.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.5/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.12/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on agricultural technology for sustainable development (A/C.2/70/L.12/Rev.1)

19. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Congo wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.12/Rev.1.

20. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.12/Rev.1, submitted by Israel on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications. He informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested.

21. **Mr. Al-Kuwari** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, said that the Group had reservations about both the content of the draft resolution and the motivations behind it. The draft

resolution did not sufficiently take into account the perspective of developing countries, in particular with respect to technology transfer and the elimination of trade barriers to agricultural goods. The subject matter of the draft resolution had already been addressed in the draft resolution on agriculture development, food security and nutrition submitted by the Group of 77 and China. There was no need for an additional draft resolution on agricultural technology that would only serve to dilute the focus.

22. The mere fact that Israel was introducing the draft resolution was worthy of condemnation, because Israel was guilty of numerous violations of the very draft resolution it was submitting. Indeed, many of those violations had already been condemned in other draft resolutions adopted by the Committee, notably the draft resolution on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

23. The most recent report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/70/82-E/2015/13) documented how Israel had disrupted the traditional pastoral livelihoods of 7,000 Bedouins and herders by seizing their residential and agricultural structures. That same report also detailed that the Israeli occupation was systematically destroying the productive capacities of Palestinian farmers, in violation of paragraph 3 of the draft resolution under consideration, which encouraged efforts to strengthen agricultural capacity in developing countries. In the years since its 1967 occupation of what remained of historical Palestine, Israel had issued military orders seizing all water sources. It also denied Palestinians authorization to construct new water facilities, in violation of paragraph 10 of the draft resolution under consideration, which called for efforts to develop and strengthen irrigation facilities.

24. The report of the Secretary-General on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan (A/69/348) had shown that most of the Israeli settlements had appropriated privately owned Palestinian land, that Israel had created a military zone along the border with Jordan on land previously farmed by Palestinians, and that cultivated areas in the West Bank had shrunk by 30 per cent between the 1960s and the 1990s due to restrictions on access to land and water resources. All of those Israeli activities were in conflict with provisions of the draft resolution under consideration.

25. The recent Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip had destroyed much of that area's water grid, not to mention the agricultural losses incurred due to the war and the blockade. On the West Bank, Israeli settlers had uprooted, burned or sprayed with toxic chemicals over 10,000 trees and set up physical barriers to block the access of Palestinian farmers to their fields. Those actions, too, violated provisions of the draft resolution under consideration.

26. Israel's destruction of agricultural land, construction of the separation barrier, prevention of access by Palestinians to their natural resources and allocation of much smaller quantities of water to Palestinians than to the illegal Israeli settlers were all racist practices that confirmed that Israel was in fact not committed in the least to agriculture for development.

27. The Group of Arab States rejected efforts by Israel to use the United Nations to burnish its image and distract attention from policies and practices that had been undermining agricultural efforts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 1967. It would be abstaining from the vote.

28. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that instead of supporting the draft resolution on agriculture development, food security and nutrition submitted annually by the Group of 77 and China, the delegation of Israel had chosen to introduce another draft resolution that diluted the Organization's focus and also ignored previous commitments by the developed countries on technology transfer. Reports from ESCWA, inter alia, had documented the ways in which the occupation authorities systematically prevented agricultural development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan by stealing water resources, polluting the soil with toxic waste and drilling for oil and gas. Among other things, those activities violated General Assembly resolution 68/232 on World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils, a resolution that was cited in the preamble to the very draft resolution that Israel was introducing. Similarly,

at the same time as it was introducing a draft resolution that acknowledged the need to revitalize the agricultural sector, promote rural development and ensure food security, Israel was also overcharging Arab farmers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan for the small amounts of water allotted to them, and marketing produce from those territories as being Israeli, in violation of the Geneva Conventions and the relevant international resolutions. The purpose of the draft resolution was to whitewash the occupation while promoting Israeli agricultural technology companies. His delegation would abstain from the vote.

29. **Mr. Abu Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that although there was nothing in the content of the draft resolution under consideration to which his delegation objected, he wondered about the appropriateness of it being introduced by a country with a history of disregarding hundreds of General Assembly resolutions and dozens of Security Council resolutions. Israel practiced ethnic cleansing and apartheid while its terrorist settlers monopolized land and water resources. Israel should not be allowed to use the United Nations as a forum to present itself as a constructive contributor to development.

30. According to the most recent ESCWA report, mobility restrictions in the West Bank had rendered an estimated 50 per cent of agricultural land therein inaccessible. A 2011 report from the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights on the impact of the closure policy on agricultural exports in the Gaza Strip had detailed the material losses resulting from Israeli restrictions on exports by Palestinian farmers. The report of the Secretary-General on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan (A/69/348) had cited the conclusion of an Israeli non-governmental organization that the rapid growth of Israeli settler agriculture in the West Bank Hill Country was linked to restrictions on Palestinian farmers' access to agricultural fields. That same report stated that Israel had created an extended closed military zone along the border with Jordan covering approximately 41,000 acres of land that was previously farmed by Palestinians, that cultivated areas in the West Bank had shrunk by 30 per cent between the 1960s and the 1990s mainly due to Israeli restrictions, and that around 40 per cent of Israeli settler agriculture in the West Bank was farmed on privately owned Palestinian land.

31. On 10 December 2014, Palestinian Minister Ziad Abu Ein had been choked to death during a peaceful demonstration to plant olive trees. The Israeli Government's investigation had concluded that the soldiers involved in that incident had acted according to the rules. He wondered if voting for a draft resolution submitted by a Government capable of reaching such a conclusion would also be acting according to the rules.

32. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic) requested a recorded vote on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.12/Rev.1.

33. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

34. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.12/Rev.1 was adopted by 124 votes to none, with 37 abstentions.**

35. **Mr. Danon** (Israel), making a general statement after voting, said that agriculture was not merely a source of food and nutrition; it was also one of the largest providers of income and employed 1 billion people, including two thirds of the population of sub-Saharan Africa. Smallholder farmers accounted for 75 per cent of the world's poor, with women farmers being the most vulnerable and neglected. They lacked the skills, tools and opportunities that would help them break out of the cycle of poverty and hunger.

36. The draft resolution was not merely about agricultural technology, it was about improving the lives of people across the developing world. It focused on building the capacity and resilience of small-scale farmers, and on the empowerment of women and young people, who were the building blocks of sustainable development. Israel had learned through its own experience that people were the best natural resource a country had. An old Jewish proverb held that righteous people did not waste even a mustard seed. His country had taken that teaching to heart by finding simple and sustainable solutions from drip irrigation to waste water recycling and seed engineering, thereby improving agricultural productivity, ensuring food and nutrition security, and reducing poverty.

37. In spite of wide support, the draft resolution had not been adopted by consensus. Ironically, the group that had blocked a consensus was the same group that would benefit most from the draft resolution, namely, the Arab world. The need for agricultural technology in the Middle East was undeniable. Yet those Governments had put politics before people and pride before progress.

38. **Mr. Morales López** (Colombia), speaking in explanation of vote after voting, said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because of the need to promote sustainable agricultural strategies that enabled rural development through enhanced technology and resilience to natural hazards. The priority should now be to design policies to boost research, development and the dissemination of agricultural technologies in developing countries in particular. The international community should promote access to, and transfers of, technology within a balanced and efficient international intellectual property framework, which should in turn lead to a revitalized and genuinely transformative global alliance for development. Colombia had proactively attempted to include commitments on transfers of environmentally friendly technologies to developing countries, but had been systematically ignored. The wording of operative paragraphs 2 and 15 was a cause for concern since they should have included the balanced language agreed, inter alia, in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Transfers of technology on favourable terms were a central sustainable development need in countries such as his and many others. In the post-conflict situation, rural development was more important than ever.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.46)

Draft resolution entitled "United Nations Forest Instrument" (A/C.2/70/L.46)

39. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.46, submitted by Mr. Krapp (Germany), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

40. **Ms. van Veen** (Finland), facilitator, said that the draft resolution followed up on Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 of 22 July 2015, entitled "International arrangement on forests beyond 2015", and the discussions in the United Nations Forum on Forests. The global instrument was an important tool providing countries with the framework for national and international cooperation in sustainable forest management and also contributed to the achievement

* The delegation of Nepal subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

of the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

41. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.46 was adopted.*

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.17 and A/C.2/70/L.47)

Draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/70/L.17 and A/C.2/70/L.47)

42. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.47, submitted by Mr. Krapp (Germany), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.17. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

43. **Ms. Whyte** (Barbados), co-facilitator of the draft resolution, proposed several minor drafting changes.

44. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.47, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

45. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.17 was withdrawn.*

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.11/Rev.1)

46. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.11/Rev.1, submitted by Japan on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

47. **Mr. Yoshikawa** (Japan) said that Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Liechtenstein and San Marino wished to join the list of sponsors. Having introduced minor editorial corrections to the draft resolution, he noted that tsunamis were relatively rare but that they could lead to loss of life and property damage. His country was determined to improve tsunami preparedness through events held at the United Nations and also at the national level.

48. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, the Niger, Oman, Senegal and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia also wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.11/Rev.1.

49. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.11/Rev.1, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.4/Rev.1)

Draft resolution entitled "International Day of Women and Girls in Science" (A/C.2/70/L.4/Rev.1)

50. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.4/Rev.1, submitted by Malta on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

51. **Mr. Mansfield** (Malta) said that Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, San Marino and Serbia wished to join the sponsors.

52. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Algeria, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kenya, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam also wished to join the sponsors.

53. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.4/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Organization of work

54. **The Chair** said that he would write to the President of the General Assembly to request an extension of the work of the Second Committee until Monday, 14 December.

55. **Ms. Mamdani** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, the United States of America and her own delegation, said that the delegations on behalf of which she was speaking had sent a letter to the Bureau of the Second Committee on 20 November to raise concerns about delays in the work of that Committee. Progress had since been made on some cross-cutting language and certain draft resolutions. However, the overall progress of the Second Committee was still a cause for concern and the credibility of the Committee was in question. The delays had also had a negative impact on the work of the Fifth Committee. The report of the General

Committee had stressed the need for the Main Committees to allow sufficient time for the preparation of estimates of expenditure by the Secretariat and for subsequent consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. A deadline not later than 1 December should be established for all draft resolutions with financial implications to be submitted for consideration to the Fifth Committee. It was regrettable that that deadline had already been missed and the broader effectiveness of the General Assembly had been impacted. Draft resolutions that had not been introduced before 25 November should be deferred so that the Committee could conclude its more advanced draft resolutions. Draft resolutions should also revert to agreed language. Furthermore, the remaining work of the Committee should be concluded during normal working hours.

56. **Ms. Loe** (Norway) said that her delegation was also concerned about the delays in the work of the Committee, which demonstrated the need to improve its working methods. The Bureau should enforce the deadline for the finalization of all negotiations.

57. **Mr. Marobe** (South Africa) said that the focus should be on the mandate of the Second Committee and all partners should strive to complete the Committee's work and thereby address existing economic, social and environmental challenges.

The meeting rose at noon.